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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Role of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights in assisting the Government and people of Cambodia in the promotion and protection of human rights

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Under resolution 1993/6 of 19 February 1993 of the Commission on Human Rights, endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1993/254 of 28 July 1993, and under General Assembly resolution 48/154 of 20 December 1993, the Centre for Human Rights was requested to establish an operational presence in Cambodia with the following mandate:

(a) To manage the implementation of educational and technical assistance and advisory services programmes, and to ensure their continuation;

(b) To assist the Government of Cambodia, at its request, in meeting its obligations under the human rights instruments adhered to, including the preparation of reports to the relevant monitoring committees;

(c) To provide support to bona fide human rights groups in Cambodia;

(d) To contribute to the creation and/or strengthening of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights;

(e) To continue to assist with the drafting and implementation of legislation to promote and protect human rights;

(f) To continue to assist with the training of persons responsible for the administration of justice.

2. Accordingly, the Centre established an operational presence in Cambodia on 1 October 1993 and has since then been operating on the basis of the mandate provided by the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly.

3. Pursuant to the requests of the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly, reports on the activities in Cambodia of the Centre for Human Rights were submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session (A/49/635/Add.1), covering the period from February to July 1994, and fiftieth session (A/50/681/Add.1), covering the period from December 1994 to July 1995, and to the Commission on Human Rights at its fiftieth session (E/CN.4/1994/73), covering the period from October 1993 to January 1994, fifty-first session (E/CN.4/1995/89), covering the period from July to November 1994, and fifty-second session (E/CN.4/1996/92), covering the period from July to November 1995.

4. The General Assembly, in its resolution 50/178 of 22 December 1995, welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Centre; encouraged the Government of Cambodia to continue its efforts to meet its reporting obligations under international human rights instruments, drawing on the assistance of the office in Cambodia of the Centre; encouraged the Government of Cambodia to maintain constructive dialogue and consultation with the Centre concerning its activities in Cambodia; commended the ongoing efforts of the office in Cambodia of the Centre in supporting and assisting the Government, as well as non-governmental organizations and others involved in the promotion and protection of human rights in cooperation with the Government; requested the Centre, in cooperation with the relevant specialized agencies and

development programmes, to develop and implement programmes, with the consent and cooperation of the Government of Cambodia, in the priority areas identified by the Special Representative, paying particular attention to vulnerable groups, including women, children and minorities; decided to continue its consideration of the situation of human rights in Cambodia at its fifty-first session; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the role of the Centre.

5. Following the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 50/178, the Commission on Human Rights, at its fifty-second session in March-April 1996, adopted resolution 1996/54 on 19 April 1996. Information on the activities of the Centre from July to November 1995 was submitted to the Commission at that session (E/CN.4/1996/92). In resolution 1996/54, the Commission, inter alia, commended the continued operation in Cambodia of the office of the Centre for Human Rights; welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Centre; recognized the seriousness with which the Government of Cambodia has approached the preparation of its initial reports to the relevant treaty bodies, and encouraged the Government to continue its efforts to meet its reporting obligations under international human rights instruments, drawing on the assistance of the office in Cambodia of the Centre for Human Rights; welcomed and encouraged the efforts of individuals, non-governmental organizations, Governments and international organizations involved in human rights activities in Cambodia; noted with appreciation the use by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Trust Fund for a Human Rights Education Programme in Cambodia to finance the programme of activities of the office in Cambodia of the Centre for Human Rights, as defined in resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights, and invited Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, foundations and individuals to consider contributing to the Trust Fund; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-third session on the role of the Centre.

6. The present report contains a description of the activities and programmes implemented in Cambodia by the Centre for Human Rights from December 1995 to July 1996 and is submitted pursuant to the request made by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/178.

II. OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

7. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights made his first official visit to Cambodia in July 1994, shortly after his appointment. Since then, the High Commissioner has been following closely human rights developments in the country. He issued a press release condemning the 30 September 1995 grenade attack against members of the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party in Phnom Penh and calling for respect of the right to life and physical security as well as for the peaceful solution of disputes. The continuing role of the High Commissioner in the promotion and protection of human rights in Cambodia was welcomed by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/178.

8. The High Commissioner made a second official visit to Cambodia from 27 February to 2 March 1996. During this visit, he undertook a series of high-level meetings with government officials and others working in the area of human rights in Cambodia, and signed a memorandum of understanding on technical cooperation in the field of human rights. (See annex I for the programme of the visit.)

9. The Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Cambodia and the Centre for Human Rights for the implementation of a technical cooperation programme on human rights, signed on 1 March 1996, includes a number of projects to be implemented by the Centre through its operational presence in Cambodia, in cooperation with the Government, over a period of two years, in the following fields: institution-building; administration of justice; strengthening of civil society, including through non-governmental organizations; human rights activities in the provinces; information; and education in the field of human rights.

10. On the occasion of the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation highlighted some of the notable progress made since the formation of the Royal Government. He underlined that if criticism of wrongdoings was necessary, it was more constructive to assist the Government in a practical way. The High Commissioner acknowledged positive developments in a number of areas, such as the development of human rights education in school curricula; human rights training of the judiciary, the police and the military; the orderly resolution of the Chrey Thom issue; and the growth of an active non-governmental organizations movement, and said he would look for ways to increase assistance to the Government, notably in the prison sector.

11. With regard to official abuses, the Minister emphasized that any abuse of the law should be investigated and brought before the courts regardless of who the perpetrators might be. He underlined, however, that continued instances of human rights violations by individual members of government institutions, such as the military, should not be used to discredit those institutions, even less the Government, since abusive generalizations could damage the Government's reputation. The High Commissioner welcomed those statements, which reflected the spirit in which he and the Centre for Human Rights were working, but noted that the issue of impunity for official crime might lead to suspicion that abuses are condoned by the Government. The Foreign Minister invited the Centre for Human Rights to share with the Government verified information on instances of human rights violations.

12. The High Commissioner was received by the Head of State a.i., Chea Sim, President of the National Assembly, who reiterated to the High Commissioner his support and the support of the Royal Government of Cambodia for the presence and activities of the office in Cambodia of the Centre for Human Rights.

13. The High Commissioner met with the First Prime Minister, Samdech Krom Preah Norodom Ranariddh, and discussed problems related to the establishment of the Supreme Council of Magistracy and the Constitutional Council, the need to adopt a law on landmines, and the possible ratification by Cambodia of the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and

Political Rights. The High Commissioner welcomed the Prime Minister's remarks in support of the Cambodian human rights non-governmental organizations on Human Rights Day, 10 December 1995, and the Prime Minister reiterated his praise for the work of non-governmental organizations, particularly the human rights training programmes for the Cambodian military and police. He stressed that the Government would continue to support and protect the work of Cambodian human rights non-governmental organizations, particularly in the countryside.

14. The High Commissioner invited the Government to send two officials to Geneva to attend the proceedings of the Commission on Human Rights and to receive training at the Centre, as suggested by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Mr. Marrack Goulding, in 1995 (see para. 23). The Prime Minister called for close cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights and invited the Centre's office in Cambodia to provide the Government with information on specific cases of human rights violations.

15. The High Commissioner also met with the Co-Ministers of the Interior, Sar Kheng and You Hocckry. The Co-Ministers expressed their appreciation of the past and current cooperation provided by the Centre with regard to the drafting of laws, prison administration and assistance, and police training, and invited more cooperation in those fields. They welcomed the joint programme of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Centre to provide the Ministry with forensic equipment and training, and requested assistance to improve prison conditions, and particularly to facilitate the transfer of women prisoners to separate detention facilities. The Co-Ministers invited continued cooperation by the Centre to assist the Ministry in drafting laws, in particular with regard to the forthcoming elections and political parties. Co-Minister Sar Kheng invited the Centre to bring to his attention information relating to specific cases of human rights violations. The High Commissioner praised the Ministers for this successful cooperation and congratulated them for their stance on a variety of issues, in particular the repealing of several circulars allowing the detention and expulsion of illegal aliens.

16. The High Commissioner attended a meeting with the Minister of Justice, Chem Snguon, after which they were joined by the members of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Reporting Obligations, which is in charge of preparing reports to the committees established under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Commission and the Minister of Justice discussed a variety of mutual concerns relative to strengthening the rule of law, including issues of impunity, measures being taken to implement the relevant national and international standards applicable to prisons and detention centres, and the very low proportion of the national budget available for the administration of justice, including the extremely low salaries for judges. When joined by the members of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Reporting Obligations, the High Commissioner commended them on the seriousness and thoroughness with which the Royal Government of Cambodia was approaching its reporting obligations and urged the Committee to send in its reports,

particularly on the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as a matter of urgency.

17. The High Commissioner also had a meeting with Loy Sim Chheang, First Vice-President of the National Assembly, attended by the presidents or vice-presidents of eight of the nine Assembly commissions. The Vice-President briefed him on the necessarily slow but steady progress made by the National Assembly in adopting new laws and contributing to the gradual establishment of a working system of government based on the rule of the law. However, he noted that difficulties inherited from the past could not be resolved overnight. He emphasized the need to overcome some of the difficulties to reform the administration which continued to be organized by laws and regulations set in place by the former Government. He called for the continued support of the United Nations and the international community for the efforts under way by all those in the Government who are working to consolidate the process of cooperation between parties towards a functioning system of government at the legislative and executive levels.

18. The High Commissioner attended one of the sessions of a week-long seminar on teaching human rights for trainers of primary school teachers, organized by the Cambodian Institute for Human Rights. Staff of the Centre for Human Rights had participated in several sessions throughout the week.

19. The High Commissioner stressed the importance of human rights education in the school system, welcomed the impressive amount of human rights education, both formal and informal, ongoing in Cambodia, and informed the workshop participants of United Nations efforts to promote human rights education worldwide through the mechanism of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education.

20. The High Commissioner was given extensive briefings by Cambodian non-governmental organizations involved in human rights monitoring, education, and women's and children's rights issues. The non-governmental organizations described their work, and the High Commissioner commended them on the contribution they were making for the promotion and protection of human rights in Cambodia and urged them to press ahead.

21. The High Commissioner also met with representatives of United Nations agencies and other international organizations in Cambodia. He held a press conference for members of the Cambodian media and a separate press conference for members of the international media stationed in Phnom Penh.

III. ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMBODIA FROM DECEMBER 1995 TO JULY 1996

A. Enhanced cooperation with the Government

22. During the period under review, the Centre enjoyed extensive cooperation with ministries, provincial authorities, the National Assembly and members of the judiciary, as well as representatives of Cambodian civil society. A more

active approach was adopted by the Government and the National Assembly in seeking advice from the Centre, particularly in the drafting of laws related to human rights and the administration of justice.

23. Progress was made in the implementation of the five points suggested in May 1995 by Mr. Marrack Goulding, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, and approved by the Government to enhance cooperation and communication between the Centre for Human Rights and the Government. The five points were as follows:

1. That informal confidential consultative meetings be held, every two to three months, between the leadership of the Cambodia office of the Centre for Human Rights and the two Prime Ministers to enable the latter to express any concern they had about the office's activities and to enable the office to express any concern about the cooperation received from the Government;

2. That a more formal meeting be held once a year, prior to the Commission on Human Rights session, when preparations for the session are being made by both the office and the Government, to ensure the full exchange of views between the Government and the office;

3. That there should be a more proactive approach in handling reports. Under existing practice, draft reports are sent to the Government but no reaction is ever received. The Centre would take the initiative in pointing out informally to the Government those parts of the draft report that might require special attention and comment by the Government;

4. That seminars be organized for government officials from various ministries to explain the human rights programme of the United Nations;

5. That one or two government officials be invited to Geneva by the Centre for Human Rights each year to see how the Commission operates and, more particularly, how technical cooperation is placed in its agenda.

24. Concerning point 1, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed the Cambodia office of the Centre that the two Prime Ministers had no particular concern to express about the office's activities, and therefore no meeting was organized.

25. On point 2, two meetings have been held with representatives of the Foreign Ministry to discuss the draft reports of the Centre for Human Rights and of the Special Representative to the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights, and other matters related to the human rights situation in Cambodia and the activities of the Centre.

26. With regard to the implementation of point 3, the Centre has continued to forward to the Government the draft reports both of the Centre and of the Special Representative, indicating areas which may require comments from the Government. Comments have been received on several occasions by various ministries and taken into consideration. The comments on the report of the Special Representative are contained in the report of the Secretary-General of 26 October 1995 (A/50/681, annex III) and in a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cambodia to the Centre for Human Rights, dated 22 March 1996 (E/CN.4/1996/93/Add.1).

27. On point 4, a number of seminars have been organized for government officials from various ministries on the international conventions binding on Cambodia and the functioning of the United Nations system (see E/CN.4/1996/92, para. 40).

28. Point 5 was also implemented when, in April 1996, two Cambodian delegates visited Geneva to improve their knowledge of the work of the United Nations system for the protection and promotion of human rights. The visit included attending the session of the Commission on Human Rights and coincided with the presentation by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for human rights in Cambodia, Mr. Michael Kirby, of his report to the Commission.

29. After consultation between the Centre and the Government, it was agreed that the delegation to Geneva would include civil servants in the Government who had to work on the reports of the Centre and the Special Representative and coordinate the comments by the Government on those reports.

30. The delegation included Mr. Ith Rady, Secretary of the permanent secretariat of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Reporting Obligations, selected by the Ministry of Justice, and Mr. Sok Sophoan, Chief of Office, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, member of the permanent secretariat of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Reporting Obligations, who had also been in charge of coordinating the comments received from various ministries on the last report by Mr. Michael Kirby to the Commission on Human Rights.

31. The Cambodian delegation was in Geneva from 1 to 4 April 1996. The delegation met with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and staff of the Centre for Human Rights. The members of the delegation were briefed extensively on reporting procedures under human rights treaty bodies, on special procedures and communication procedures, and on technical cooperation. They met with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for human rights in Cambodia and attended the session of the Commission on Human Rights at which Mr. Kirby introduced his report. They also attended meetings of the Special Representative with Governments and non-governmental organizations.

B. Cooperation with other United Nations agencies

32. The Centre continues to work closely with other United Nations agencies having programmes and offices in Cambodia, on matters of common concern. The Centre is contributing to the implementation of a joint project with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on governance, democracy and human rights in Cambodia. The Centre identified the priority areas for assistance under this project and is providing substantive supervision for all project activities. The project is funding the continuation of some of the Centre's activities, including the Judicial Mentors Programme and the provincial offices of the Centre, in addition to providing assistance to the National Assembly, the Ministry of the Interior and Cambodian non-governmental organizations.

33. The Centre continues to cooperate closely with the United Nations Volunteers programme, which since 1994 has been providing United Nations Volunteers for assignment to the Cambodia office. A total of eight United Nations Volunteers have been provided at different times to the Centre and have worked both in Phnom Penh and in the Centre's provincial offices. More were expected to arrive soon in Cambodia.

34. At its fifty-second session, in its resolution 1996/54 of 19 April 1996 on the situation of human rights in Cambodia, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Centre for Human Rights, in cooperation with the relevant specialized agencies and development programmes, to develop and implement programmes, with the consent and cooperation of the Government of Cambodia, in the priority areas identified by the Special Representative, paying particular attention to women, children, disabled persons and minorities. In this regard, the Centre for Human Rights and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) are developing a joint programme in Cambodia aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Government and non-governmental organizations to understand, implement and monitor the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

35. As a follow-up to the fifteenth workshop on the management of field coordination for senior United Nations system representatives, organized at the International Labour Organization's Training Centre in Turin from 22 to 30 June 1995, the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Cambodia convened a United Nations theme group on good governance, democracy and human rights in June 1996. The group's meetings are chaired by the Director of the Cambodia office of the Centre. Its objective is to enhance cooperation between United Nations agencies and programmes in areas such as the education of civil society, training and assistance to journalists and the media, and training programmes for the judiciary, the police and the military.

C. Assistance in legislative reform

36. Through its office in Cambodia, the Centre for Human Rights continued to carry out many activities for the creation, strengthening and support of a legal framework consistent with international human rights norms and for securing the promotion and protection of human rights and democracy.

37. Assistance has been provided to the Government, including its various ministries, and to the National Assembly and its various commissions, including the Commission on Human Rights and the Reception of Complaints, in the drafting and implementation of the laws discussed below. The Centre has also provided assistance to human rights non-governmental organizations and media organizations and groups involved at various levels in the drafting and implementation of laws.

Associations and other non-governmental organizations

38. The Centre assisted the Ministry of the Interior, upon its request, in drafting a law regulating associations and non-governmental organizations, which was submitted to the Council of Ministers for approval in May 1996. The Centre met regularly with Ministry officials and representatives of non-governmental organizations to help establish a consensus in support of a draft which protects freedom of association while addressing the legitimate concerns of the Government.

Nationality

39. The draft nationality law was submitted to the National Assembly in December 1995. The Centre has continued to provide detailed comments to the National Assembly's Commission on Defence and the Interior and interested legislators, as well as to the Ministry of the Interior. The comments include suggestions for revisions to the draft, in particular on sections concerning the issues of nationality for ethnic Vietnamese.

Immigration

40. The Immigration Law was adopted by the National Assembly between 22 and 26 August 1994. In consultation with the Ministry of the Interior, the Centre helped to draft eight separate regulations to implement the Immigration Law, in conformity with Cambodia's international legal obligations and the Constitution. The draft regulations have been pending in the Council of Ministers or the Ministry of the Interior since late 1995.

41. The Centre continues to assist the Government in monitoring the implementation of the Immigration Law and the policies and practices relating to ethnic minorities, particularly ethnic Vietnamese, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and non-governmental organizations and, where necessary, has communicated its concerns to the Government.

Press

42. The Centre continues to provide assistance to the Government in the implementation of the Press Law, and to provide information to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for human rights in Cambodia on the subject.

Prisons

43. There is currently no legal framework for the establishment or operation of prisons in Cambodia. Draft prison rules prepared with the assistance of the Centre have been pending in the Ministry of the Interior since 1995. If implemented, the draft rules would conform to Cambodia's international human rights obligations and would respond to the actual problems facing prisons and prisoners in Cambodia.

44. The Centre has organized emergency provision of food and medical care in a number of prisons and continues to encourage donors to consider assisting in the renovation of and material assistance to Cambodia's prisons. The Government of Australia has responded by commencing repairs on seven prisons to eliminate dark cells, improve hygiene and create more cells, specifically for women.

45. In response to a spate of deaths of prisoners for health-related reasons and the general absence or low level of prison medical services, the Centre organized a meeting in April 1996 with the Ministries of Health, Justice and the Interior, the World Food Programme (WFP) and local and international non-governmental organizations to improve the provision of health care to prisoners. Some initial agreements have been made and further consultations are planned. As a follow-up, the Ministry of Health has issued instructions for the provision of medical supplies to prisoners and detainees and the extension of national TB programmes to prisons.

Landmines

46. In May 1995 the Centre assisted in drafting a law outlawing the use, import and sale of landmines in Cambodia. The draft was expected to be submitted to the Council of Ministers for approval shortly. The Centre also continues to work with the International Committee of the Red Cross, relevant non-governmental organizations and demining and humanitarian agencies on the problem.

Anti-corruption law

47. The Centre continues to give advice to members of the National Assembly, government officials and representatives of local non-governmental organizations on draft laws on corruption and asset disclosure. The drafts were submitted to the National Assembly in 1994 but have not yet been put on the agenda for debate.

Women

48. The draft women's code was submitted by the Ministry of Women's Affairs to the Council of Ministers in June 1995. No action has been taken since then by the Council of Ministers. The Centre continues to provide legal and policy advice on gender issues to the Government, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, members of the National Assembly and non-governmental organizations, particularly in reviewing the draft legislation.

Electoral law

49. Local elections were tentatively scheduled for late 1997, and national elections were scheduled for 1998. The Centre is assisting all the relevant Cambodian institutions and individuals in conceptualizing and drafting a legal framework for free and fair elections. The Ministry of the Interior has set up a Committee of representatives of the Cambodian People's Party and the United National Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia to draft the local election law. Work has not begun on the draft national election law.

50. The Centre continues to give legal advice on the status of members of the National Assembly, including Mr. Kem Sokha, Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights and the Reception of Complaints.

Law on control of drugs

51. A draft law on the control of drugs was submitted to the National Assembly in May 1996. The draft was prepared by the Ministry of Justice with the assistance of a consultant from the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. The Centre has provided advice to the Ministry of Justice, members of the National Assembly, local lawyers and non-governmental organizations on the draft, which contains provisions which may contradict the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Cambodian Constitution and Cambodian criminal law and procedure.

Labour law

52. The draft labour law was approved by the Council of Ministers in early 1996 and may be adopted soon. The Centre continues to provide detailed comments on the draft law to members of the National Assembly and competent officials at their request.

Disability law

53. A group of non-governmental organizations and disabled persons have requested the assistance and participation of the Centre in preliminary discussions about a law on the rights of the disabled. It was anticipated that a draft law on disabled persons would be completed this year.

Implementation of laws generally

54. The Centre also continues to monitor the implementation of laws to ensure consistency with internationally recognized human rights standards. In particular, the Centre continues to assist the National Assembly's Commission on Human Rights and the Reception of Complaints and non-governmental organizations, at their request, with advice on the human rights aspects of laws and their implementation. Advice has concerned all the subject areas discussed above, as well as the Constitution, the law on the Bar Association, criminal law and criminal procedure law, the Khmer Rouge law, the law on the suppression of kidnapping, trafficking, sale and exploitation of human beings, the land law and regulations relating to evictions and squatters.

National Assembly law office

55. Assistance is being provided to the law office of the National Assembly - the centre for legal research and documentation - through the placement since January 1996 of an international consultant. The consultant's responsibilities include assisting the National Assembly in drafting and reviewing legislation, with particular emphasis on human rights norms, and in addressing the more general issues of the administration of justice, the rule of law, and legal consistency and clarity. Another Cambodian lawyer will soon be hired to work at

the Centre, as well as three Cambodian legal assistants. These activities are funded under the joint UNDP/Centre for Human Rights Programme.

D. Administration of justice

Legal training

56. At the request of the President of the Cambodian Bar Association, the Centre contributed to a 16-week course, between February and June 1996, on human rights for 43 students attending a lawyers' training course at the Cambodian Bar Association. The students will be eligible to take the bar examination and practice as lawyers in 1997.

57. The Centre conducted weekly sessions on subjects such as introduction to international human rights law, the relationship between international and national human rights law, human rights and the Cambodian Constitution, Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and women's rights under Cambodian law, Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and relevant Cambodian law, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, freedom of association, freedom of expression, criminal law and procedure, immigration and nationality law, and the role of the legal profession in addressing human rights violations.

58. In July 1996, the Centre organized a training course on human rights and law enforcement for 40 instructors of the Royal Gendarmerie. The course aimed at training participants in using the human rights curriculum developed by the Centre to train other gendarmes. Topics covered by the curriculum include: the rule of law, the Constitution of Cambodia, criminal law and procedure, international human rights law, treatment of prisoners, role of the Royal Gendarmerie in Cambodia's democracy, and human rights violations by the Gendarmerie and their prosecution. The Centre also continues to review the curriculum on police and human rights that it developed for Cambodian non-governmental organizations conducting human rights training for police and to assist non-governmental organizations in the conduct of such training. From April 1995 to early 1996, over 14,000 police officials had received training in 12 provinces and 17,000 more were projected to be trained through 1996 and early 1997. A follow-up workshop for non-governmental organizations conducting police training was held in April 1996 by the Centre, focusing particularly on training methodology. The Centre has a well-developed curricula for training of prison officials and on human rights, obligations and responsibilities for detainees and prisoners, which will be delivered by non-governmental organizations. The curricula cover constitutional human rights provisions, criminal law and procedure, and international human rights standards relevant to detention and imprisonment. A curriculum has also been developed for training of detainees and prisoners, which includes definition of human rights, interrelationship between human rights and Buddhism, domestic and international norms protecting the rights of persons in detention, and the link between rights and responsibilities.

Judicial Mentors Programme

59. The Judicial Mentors Programme continued its operations. The Programme has the following objectives:

(a) To assist Cambodian courts in implementing legislation in conformity with international human rights standards;

(b) To assist in improving coordination between the courts, prison officials, the police, the military and the provincial administration;

(c) To assist judges, prosecutors and court officials in the day-to-day functioning of the courts with respect to organization, procedure and law;

(d) To prepare an assessment of the judicial system and the policy and legal changes necessary to promote and protect human rights and establish the rule of law.

60. The programme places consultants - judges or experienced lawyers - in the provincial or municipal courts to work with Cambodian judges, prosecutors and clerks on a daily basis. The consultants conduct training for judges and prosecutors on the Cambodian Constitution, United Nations human rights conventions ratified by Cambodia and other international standards on human rights and the administration of justice, and Cambodian law; provide advice on legal questions which arise in the course of the court's work; and work with all court personnel to improve court administration.

61. At present, the Centre's consultants include five judges and lawyers from Bangladesh, Greece, India, Sri Lanka and the United States of America, who are working in Phnom Penh and in four provinces. Another mentor was expected to arrive soon, and the programme will be extended to one additional province.

62. Funds from the joint UNDP/Centre for Human Rights Programme have also been used to begin renovation of the court buildings in the provinces in which the Centre has mentors. Most of the court buildings are severely dilapidated, with leaky roofs and little or no electricity, running water or typewriters and other office supplies and inadequate courtroom space. Necessary equipment and other material assistance have been provided. Renovations and material assistance will add greatly to the status and effectiveness of the courts in Cambodia.

63. The programme cooperates closely with a similar programme of the International Human Rights Law Group, which works in parallel with the Centre's programme in five other provinces.

64. The Minister of Justice has provided full cooperation to the Centre in the implementation of the Judicial Mentors Programme, asking the judges in all courts to cooperate closely with the mentors and requesting the Centre to train, within the Programme, all the legal actors in human rights norms and the principles of the rule of law. Periodic and useful consultations with the Ministry of Justice have taken place.

65. The Ministry has expressed satisfaction with the programme and encouraged its continuation, which can only occur through voluntary contributions of Member States.

Improving the forensics capacity of the Ministry of the Interior

66. The Ministry of the Interior has very limited capacity for medical and criminal forensics. This greatly limits the ability of police and the courts to properly investigate crimes, leading to wrongful convictions and resort to torture to extract confessions. In consultation with Physicians for Human Rights, under the joint UNDP/Centre for Human Rights Programme, an international expert conducted a needs assessment in May 1996. The consultant's report will identify training and material needs and provide direction for implementation of measures to improve the Government's forensics capacity.

E. Assistance to the National Assembly

67. In addition to the general assistance in the elaboration and implementation of laws, described in subsection C above, specific support is being provided to the National Assembly's Commission on Human Rights and the Reception of Complaints.

68. The Commission is responsible for receiving and investigating complaints from the public. However, since its establishment in 1993, the Commission has had no investigative staff. The United Nations Commission on Human Rights, in paragraph 8 (b) of its resolution 1994/61, identified financial assistance for the Commission on Human Rights and the Reception of Complaints as a priority area. Under the joint UNDP/Centre for Human Rights Programme, the Commission has been provided with an international human rights specialist and ten Cambodian staff. Funds have also been made available to rent an auxiliary office and to purchase necessary equipment and supplies.

69. A six-week training course was held in May-June 1996 for the newly hired human rights officers of the Commission on Human Rights and the Reception of Complaints. The Centre contributed to the course by providing training on the right to life, the right not to be subjected to torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and minority rights and on the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as on methodology for human rights monitoring. Advice and assistance continued to be provided upon request to the Commission by the Centre in its day-to-day functioning.

F. Reporting obligations under human rights conventions

70. The General Assembly, in its resolution 50/178, and the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1996/54, encouraged the Government to continue its efforts to meet its reporting obligations under international human rights instruments, drawing on the assistance of the office in Cambodia of the Centre for Human Rights. The Commission recognized the seriousness with which the Government has approached the preparation of its initial reports to the relevant treaty bodies.

71. With the assistance of the Centre, the Government continues to work on its reporting obligations under six human rights treaties it has ratified or acceded to. In March 1994, an inter-ministerial committee, composed of officials from several ministries, was created to prepare the reports for submission to the treaty bodies. The Committee initially established three subcommittees to write the reports on the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Two additional subcommittees were established in December 1995 to prepare the reports on the implementation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The subcommittee for the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights will be formed upon completion of the drafting process on the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The former Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Human Rights, Mr. Michael Kirby, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights met with the Inter-Ministerial Committee in November 1995 and February 1996, respectively. The new Special Representative, Mr. Thomas Hammarberg, met with the subcommittees on the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in June 1996. All commended the seriousness and the commitment of the Inter-Ministerial Committee and subcommittees in the preparation of the reports and recommended that the Government complete the review of the reports as soon as possible.

Status of the reports

72. At the time of preparation of the present report, the reports on the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights had been reviewed by the Inter-Ministerial Committee and translated into French. The reports had to be submitted to the Council of Ministers for final approval. The report on the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, in particular, needs urgent submission, because of the approaching final deadline indicated by the Committee for its submission.

Report on the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

73. In March 1996, the Government asked the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination for a further postponement to its next session of the examination of the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The Committee agreed and requested Cambodia to submit its report by 1 May 1996. In April 1996, two Cambodian officials, members of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Reporting Obligations, were invited by the Centre for Human Rights to attend the session of the Commission on Human Rights (see paras. 28-31). They also had an opportunity to meet with the Secretary of the Committee on the Elimination of

Racial Discrimination, who reiterated the need for immediate submission of the report on the Convention.

Report on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

74. The Inter-Ministerial Committee completed its report on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in September 1995. The report awaits transmission to the Council of Ministers for final approval.

Report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child

75. The Inter-Ministerial Committee completed its report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child in December 1995. The report awaits transmission to the Council of Ministers for final approval.

Report on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

76. The Inter-Ministerial subcommittee on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women started to prepare the report on the implementation of the Convention in January 1996. The subcommittee is composed of five persons from several ministries, who meet twice a week and have been trained and assisted by two staff of the office in Cambodia of the Centre for Human Rights.

Report on the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

77. The Government, with the assistance of the Centre for Human Rights, began to draft its report on the implementation of the Convention against Torture in January 1996. The Subcommittee on the Convention meets twice a week and is trained and assisted by two staff of the office in Cambodia of the Centre. In March 1996, in cooperation with the Centre, the Subcommittee organized a two-day preparatory seminar on the Convention. The seminar, chaired by the Minister of Justice, brought together nearly 100 persons from the Ministries of Justice, Interior, Social Affairs and Defence, the police, the military, judges, lawyers, human rights defenders and non-governmental organizations, doctors and prison officials. Participants openly discussed the issue of torture and mistreatment in Cambodia, the prohibition of torture and other inhuman, cruel or degrading treatment or punishment, as set forth in the Convention, the relevant Cambodian laws, instructions by the Ministry of the Interior and by prosecutors and Judges prohibiting the use of torture and recommending preventive measures, in particular during police custody, and cooperation with the Subcommittee in gathering information. Human rights non-governmental organizations promised to gather available information and send it to the Inter-Ministerial Committee. A report, in Khmer, on the preparatory seminar has been disseminated to all provincial prisons, at the request of the Prison Department of the Ministry of the Interior. Members of the Subcommittee have begun to travel to the provinces to research information and inform the local authorities they meet, especially judges and prosecutors, on the standards set by the Convention and the Cambodian Constitution.

Difficulties encountered in the preparation of the reports

78. One of the main problems encountered by the subcommittees in their work has been lack of prior documentation, particularly reliable statistics, and difficulties in gathering information. Considerable time was required to track down from various sources the information necessary to prepare the initial reports. This was the first time that the new Cambodian Government had undertaken complicated procedures of preparing reports under the conventions ratified by the Supreme National Council during the period of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). Financial assistance and daily technical assistance such as training have been essential. Most of the government participants in the drafting process had little knowledge of the conventions, of national policy and of the norms of human rights before starting. Thus, staff of the Centre provided in-depth training and day-to-day technical cooperation in the drafting process. The Centre also provided financial support to the Inter-Ministerial Committee through contributions from the United Nations Trust Fund for a Human Rights Education Programme in Cambodia (see annex II).

Participation of non-governmental organizations in the process

79. The Cambodian Government has welcomed the active involvement of Cambodian non-governmental organizations in the report-drafting process. Non-governmental organizations committees on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women have been established to provide information to the Subcommittees on those two conventions and to prepare their own report. The committees have also been lobbying and recommending action to improve the implementation of the conventions. Two non-governmental organizations monitoring Cambodian human rights have been cooperating closely with the Subcommittee on the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in providing information on allegations of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, especially in the provinces.

80. The Centre has provided training on the conventions to the non-governmental organizations community in Cambodia and facilitated the participation of non-governmental organizations in the drafting of governmental reports.

G. Human rights and the armed forces

Training

81. Human rights training for the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) continues to be a priority of the Centre's work in Cambodia. Human rights training is provided at the Military Officers' School. In January 1996, the Centre assisted the United States Naval Justice School in conducting a two-week programme for 50 officers entitled: 'Disciplined military operations and human rights for RCAF'. Topics covered by the Centre's teaching included: international human rights law, the Constitution of Cambodia and statutory guarantees of human rights; human rights violations and redress mechanisms; the interrelationship between human rights and international humanitarian law; and human rights in emergency

situations. In April 1996, a four-hour training session was provided for 180 officers at the RCAF Military Officers' School.

82. In 1995 the Centre commenced a military assistance programme for RCAF which entailed the training of officers to become human rights instructors (see E/CN.4/1996/92, para. 34). As the programme nears completion, RCAF human rights instructors have begun conducting workshops within RCAF in four of the six military regions of Cambodia. The workshops are conducted under the title of "RCAF human rights awareness programme". A detailed schedule of the programme, over a period of 12 months, has been developed by the Ministry of Defence in cooperation with the Centre. The Centre is providing materials to RCAF instructors for use in the workshops and is assisting them in organizing and conducting the workshops, and is also providing financial assistance to RCAF for this purpose. Representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross also participate in the programme by providing sessions on international humanitarian law. Approximately 500 RCAF officers and soldiers had completed the programme at the time of preparation of the present report. The Ministry of Defence continues to provide extensive cooperation for the implementation of human rights training programmes for RCAF.

83. A high-ranking RCAF officer, who had himself participated in training organized by the Centre in 1995 under the military assistance programme and is now in charge of human rights training within RCAF, attended an expert consultation on the role of the armed forces in the protection of human rights and the rule of law organized by the Centre for Human Rights at Geneva in July 1996.

Military Justice

84. Extensive discussions have been held with the Ministry of Defence, the Military Court and the Military Prosecutor about ways in which assistance could be provided to strengthen the military justice system, particularly in relation to the prosecution of members of the armed forces responsible for human rights violations. Assistance has been requested in the drafting of a new code of military justice.

H. Education for human rights, teacher training and curriculum development

85. Taking cognizance of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004, and as part of its programmes of technical cooperation with the Cambodian Government, the Centre has begun a survey of human rights education programmes organized and conducted by government institutions, United Nations agencies, and Cambodian and international non-governmental organizations in Cambodia. When the survey is completed, a compilation of the programmes will be prepared aimed at facilitating participation by the Government of Cambodia in the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education.

86. In promoting human rights through formal education, the Centre is continuing to provide assistance and support to the Cambodian Institute for

Human Rights, which developed, with the Centre's financial support, human rights curricula for grades 1 to 11 of the Cambodian school system.

87. Training programmes for school teachers on human rights pedagogy at the Faculty of Pedagogy in Phnom Penh, as well as lectures to teachers on international human rights and responsibilities at the Cambodian Institute for Human Rights, have been conducted by the Centre.

88. The development of human rights curricula for various audiences continues to be a priority of the Centre's work in Cambodia. The drafting of all curricula is geared to training courses to be undertaken by government institutions, Cambodian non-governmental organizations and various sectors of the Cambodian public such as monks and women. In each case, the development of the curriculum is complemented by workshops conducted by the Centre to train non-governmental organizations or government institutions on how to utilize it.

89. In addition to the curricula mentioned in other sections of the present report, including those for police and military training, the Centre drafted curricula on anti-HIV/AIDS discrimination for a non-governmental organization which will teach medical staff workers. The curricula included topics such as defining discrimination and human rights, and discrimination against people affected by HIV/AIDS. The Centre has also developed a curriculum on minority rights for two non-governmental organizations, Cham Khmer Islam Minority Human Rights Development Association and Khmer Kampuchea Krom Human Rights Association, which will teach Chama, ethnic Vietnamese and other minorities.

90. The Centre has assisted Cambodian non-governmental organizations in drafting a curriculum for training of Bhuddist monks, focusing on the interrelationship between Buddhism and human rights, and has instructed trainers on how to conduct courses based on that curriculum. The training is now being conducted by Cambodian non-governmental organizations in various provinces, with the support of the Ministry of Religion. Over 700 monks were trained between January and June 1996.

I. Information and documentation

91. The Centre is disseminating, on a regular basis, human rights materials in English, French and Khmer to the Ministries of Justice, Education, Youth and Sports, Interior and Defence, and to interministerial committees, embassies, United Nations programmes, funds and agencies, non-governmental organizations, institutions, schools, private companies and the press. From December 1995 to June 1996 there were 49 different recipients. Human rights materials in Khmer distributed by the Centre include reports to the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights; the texts of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary; a compilation of Cambodian laws; a handout describing the role of the Centre; curricula; and posters, silk screens and leaflets.

92. The Centre is continuously engaged in translating human rights materials into Khmer. The two most recent translations have been Basic Principles on the

Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials and Guidelines on the Role of Prosecutors.

93. The Centre organized a celebration of Human Rights Day in December 1995. The celebration included addresses by Samdech Chea Sim, President of the National Assembly and Head of State a.i., Representative of His Majesty, King Norodom Sihanouk Varman, HRH Norodom Ranarridh, First Prime Minister, Kem Sokha, Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights and Reception of Complaints of the National Assembly, and Benny Widyono, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for human rights in Cambodia, by representatives and country directors of United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, and by presidents of coalitions of Cambodian human rights non-governmental organizations. Packets of human rights materials were disseminated during the event.

94. The Centre also participated in a celebration of Human Rights Day organized by the Cambodian non-governmental organization Committee for the Day. Staff of the Centre participated in the event through a display describing the Centre's activities and by disseminating human rights materials.

95. The Centre also maintains a resource and video room which is used regularly by visitors; they can read human rights documents and publications and view human rights videos. The Centre provides various human rights documents and publications to visitors on request.

J. Support to non-governmental organizations and civil society

96. The General Assembly, in its resolution 50/178, and the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1996/54, welcomed the efforts of non-governmental organizations involved in human rights activities in Cambodia and commended the ongoing efforts of the Centre in supporting and assisting non-governmental organizations and others in the promotion and protection of human rights in cooperation with the Government of Cambodia. In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding described in section II above, the Centre continues to provide human rights non-governmental organizations with direct financial support and technical assistance in order to strengthen their institutional capacity and develop their activities, especially at the district and sub-district levels.

97. In 1995, a total of 12 projects covering various areas of human rights education, children, minority and women's rights, prison assistance and dissemination of human rights information were funded under the United Nations Trust Fund for a Human Rights Education Programme (see annex III.B). At the time of preparation of the present report, four had been approved in 1996. Under the joint UNDP/Centre for Human Rights Programme, 14 projects were approved for funding, covering various human rights activities, especially at the provincial, district, commune and village levels.

98. Another form of assistance to Cambodian non-governmental organizations is the provision of human rights training. During the period covered by the present report, the Centre conducted general human rights training for the Khmer Youth Association and Khmer Youth Association for the Development of Farmers and

Human Rights. Other training focused on specific human rights issues, including freedom of expression and responsibility for the Women's Media Centre and monitoring and investigation for the Khmer Kampuchea Krom Human Rights Association, Khmer Kampuchea Krom Human Rights and Development Association and Human Rights Vigilance of Cambodia.

99. The Centre is also involved in many of the non-governmental organizations activities, for example the meetings of the Action Committee, a coalition of human-rights non-governmental organizations active in monitoring and investigating violations of human rights, and participated in seminars conducted by ADHOC (Association des droits de l'homme au Cambodge) in Prey Veng and Kompong Chhnang on the promotion of human rights. These seminars aimed at encouraging better dialogue between the local authorities in the provinces and human rights non-governmental organizations and promoting a better understanding of human rights and the role of human rights non-governmental organizations.

100. The Centre continues to assist non-governmental organizations working in the field of children's rights. The Centre participates in monthly meetings of the Child Welfare Group. In April 1996, the Centre participated in the conference of non-governmental organizations on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, organized by the non-governmental organizations committee on that Convention, which aimed at giving other non-governmental organizations not on that committee an opportunity to contribute to the report. The Centre is assisting the committee in producing a teaching curriculum on the Convention and continues to provide technical assistance to ECPAT-Cambodia (End Child Prostitution, Abuse and Trafficking) and the Action Committee on Child Exploitation.

101. Meetings with non-governmental organizations on children's rights are organized regularly by the Phnom Penh and provincial offices. The Centre has coordinated a working group on juvenile justice and has initiated and facilitated the creation of an advisory committee with the Ministry of Youth Rehabilitation which was approved by the two Co-Prime Ministers. The committee is comprised of representatives of the Ministry, non-governmental organizations and the Centre. Its mandate is to review the situation of children in conflict with the law and assist the Ministry in rehabilitating juvenile delinquents. In Battambang, a child abuse committee, comprised of local non-governmental organizations, meets every month to examine cases and take action. In Siem Reap, the Centre has also initiated a working group on children's rights, which is composed of international agencies such as UNICEF and CARERE, local and international non-governmental organizations, and representatives of the State Secretariat of Women's Affairs. The working group has started to promote the Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as to address cases of abuse.

102. The Centre is also working with non-governmental organizations specializing in women's rights. It is providing training on women's rights to the non-governmental organizations committee on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and helping it in the task of providing information to the Government subcommittee on that Convention.

103. In May 1996, the Centre was requested to coordinate the Women in Development Committee, which is composed mainly of 80 non-governmental

organizations, both local and international, and representatives of the Government and of United Nations programmes, funds and agencies and other international organizations. It meets once a month to discuss gender issues and women's rights.

104. In March 1996, a military prosecutor of the Ministry of Defence, representatives of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Labour and Veterans Affairs, UNICEF and the children's committee, as well as a representative of the Centre, participated in the Asia-Pacific expert group consultation on the United Nations study on the impact of armed conflict on children, which was held in Manila.

105. Since April 1996, the Centre has been conducting a detailed survey of the activities of human rights non-governmental organizations in the provinces. Assistance to those non-governmental organizations is essential because they are in daily contact with the people of Cambodia at the district and sub-district levels and are in a better position to disseminate information on and raise awareness of human rights issues. Many activities of the provincial offices of the Centre located in Battambang, Siem Reap and Kompong Cham are carried out in close collaboration with human rights non-governmental organizations, such as the establishment of committees to monitor prison conditions and children's rights, human rights training and regular meetings to exchange information. Field visits to 14 provincial offices of non-governmental organizations have already been conducted by the Centre to expedite the survey, the purpose of which is to assess the situation, activities and needs of each human rights non-governmental organization. The survey has therefore helped the Centre to identify needs more precisely in order to direct assistance to the human rights non-governmental organizations in the provinces.

K. Provincial network

106. The Centre for Human Rights continued to carry out human rights activities at the provincial level, including through its three offices in Siem Reap, Battambang and Kampong Cham provinces (see A/50/681/Add.1, paras. 109-112, and E/CN.4/1996/92, paras. 60-63).

107. The Centre continued to assess the needs of and provide technical assistance and support to the provincial authorities, the judiciary, the police, the military, local non-governmental organizations, monks and local communities through numerous activities related to human rights education and training.

108. The main activities of the Centre at the provincial level were the following:

(a) Human rights training for the police, the military and the commune leaders;

(b) Regular visits to and reporting on the situation of the prisons;

(c) Participation in prison committees;

(d) Dissemination of information to the local community;

(e) Dissemination of the Constitution, compilations of international human rights instruments and of Cambodian laws;

(f) Regular meetings with local human rights non-governmental organizations;

(g) Assistance to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights in Cambodia in the performance of his mandate, as required.

109. Special activities, such as observance of Human Rights Day and International Women's Day, were also organized in cooperation with the local authorities, local human rights non-governmental organizations and international organizations. The high rate of popular participation in these activities made them successful events in the three provinces. On International Children's Day, 8,000 children participated in the celebrations organized in Siem Reap province.

110. The activities of the provincial offices of the Centre have been funded since 1995 by the United Nations Trust Fund for a Human Rights Education Programme in Cambodia. Additional funds are provided through the joint UNDP/Centre for Human Rights Programme to extend the provincial programme for one more year and from three to six provincial offices.

111. The United Nations Volunteers programme has been, since the beginning, a crucial partner of the Centre in the implementation of human rights activities at the provincial level, by providing United Nations Volunteers to work as provincial officers for the office in Cambodia of the Centre for Human Rights.

L. Administrative, financial and personnel matters

112. The General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights, in their repeated resolutions, have recognized the enhanced functioning of the operational presence of the Centre for Human Rights in Cambodia and have requested the Secretary-General to ensure adequate resources from within existing United Nations resources. Unfortunately, those resources have been reduced for the biennium 1996-1997.

IV. CONTRIBUTIONS, PROGRAMMES AND EXPENSES UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND FOR A HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION PROGRAMME IN CAMBODIA

113. By its resolution 1993/6 of 19 February 1993, the Commission on Human Rights strongly urged Governments and interested organizations to consider contributing to the United Nations Trust Fund for a Human Rights Education Programme in Cambodia. That appeal was repeated in subsequent resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and in resolutions of the General Assembly. The General Assembly, in its resolution 50/178, and the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1996/54, noted with appreciation the use of the Trust Fund by the Secretary-General to finance the programme of activities for the office and invited Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, foundations and individuals to consider contributing to the Trust Fund.

114. Contributions to the Trust Fund received as at 31 July 1996 are listed in annex II and expenditures are shown in annex III.

Annex I

PROGRAMME OF THE SECOND OFFICIAL VISIT TO CAMBODIA OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

(27 February-1 March 1996)

27 February 1996

Arrival at Pochentong Airport

Meeting with the Director of the Cambodia office of the Centre for Human Rights

28 February 1996

Meeting with the staff of the Centre for Human Rights

Meeting with Mr. Benny Widyono, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for human rights in Cambodia

Meeting with the representatives of United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, of the European Union and of the International Committee of the Red Cross

Audience with Chea Sim, Head of State, a.i.

Meeting with primary school teacher trainers (seminar on human rights education in primary schools, at the Faculty of Pedagogy)

Meeting with ambassadors and chargés d'affaires

29 February 1996

Meeting with the staff of the Centre for Human Rights

Working meeting and signature of the Memorandum of Understanding with Ung Huot, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

Visit of Phnom Penh Municipality Tribunal and meeting with judges and prosecutors

Audience with the First Prime Minister, Samdech Krom Preah Norodom Ranariddh

1 March 1996

Meeting with the presidents of the National Assembly commissions, chaired by Loy Sim Chheang, First Vice-Chairman, at the assembly

Meeting at the Ministry of Justice with the inter-ministerial committees on the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

Meeting with Cambodian human rights non-governmental organizations

Press conference for international media

Press conference for Cambodian media

Annex II

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND FOR A HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION PROGRAMME IN CAMBODIA AS AT 31 JULY 1996

(United States dollars)

GOVERNMENTS	AMOUNT PLEDGED	OFFICIAL RECEIPT NUMBER AND DATE		FINAL AMOUNT PAID	TOTAL PAID BY COUNTRY	OUTSTANDING PLEDGE	OBSERVATIONS
AUSTRALIA							
1st		440000 37449	May 94	35 555			
2nd		540000 43306	July 95	50 000			
Total					85 555		
DENMARK							
1st	DKK 1 500 000	640000 46904	Jan. 96	133 120		137 150	Pledge letter 119.K.1/3.b of 11.01.96 from the Permanent Mission in Geneva
Total					133 120		
GREECE	USD 10 000	B 027891	Apr. 95	10 000			
1st					10 000		
Total							
IRELAND							
1st	IEP 25 000	440000 36470	Mar. 94	35 714			Pledge letter of 17.02.94 from the Permanent Mission
Total					35 714		
ITALY							
1st	ITL 1 666 666	340000 35468	Dec. 93	96 532			Letter 1510 of 11.05.93 and 814 of 02.03.94 from the Permanent Mission
Total					96 532		

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GOVERNMENTS	AMOUNT PLEDGED	OFFICIAL RECEIPT NUMBER AND DATE		FINAL AMOUNT PAID	TOTAL PAID BY COUNTRY	OUTSTANDING PLEDGE	OBSERVATIONS
JAPAN							
1st (*)	USD 197 467	4-45-04046	Apr. 94	197 497			Japanese Mission's letter SC/94/093 of 17.03.94 and OPPBF memo of 30.03.94
2nd	USD 100 000	B031413	Apr. 96	100 000			
Total					297 497		
LUXEMBOURG							
1st	LUF 550 000	440000 36193	Feb. 94	15 448			Letter A.7.5/10 of 13.01.94 from the Permanent Mission
2nd		440000 37199	May 94	15 936			
Total					31 384		
NORWAY							
1st		440000 39300	Sept. 94	71 174			
2nd	NOK 500 000	640000 46640	Jan. 96	78 458			Pledge letter PFW/sho of 19.12.95 from the Permanent Mission in Geneva
Total					149 632		
SWEDEN							
1st	SEK 2 000 000	540000 43253	June 95	279 762			Letter of 12.10.94 from the Permanent Mission and Agreement Ref. 1.11.1 FN, 1 KAB 11.1
Total					279 762		
UNITED KINGDOM							
1st	GBP 200 000	640000 48518	Apr. 96	307 692			Memorandum of Understanding signed in March 1996 by the British Ambassador in Phnom Penh and the High Commissioner
Total					307 692		

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GOVERNMENTS	AMOUNT PLEDGED	OFFICIAL RECEIPT NUMBER AND DATE		FINAL AMOUNT PAID	TOTAL PAID BY COUNTRY	OUTSTANDING PLEDGE	OBSERVATIONS
UNITED STATES							
1st (*)			Dec. 93	500 000			Remaining balance from UNTAC as at 31.12.95
Total					500 000		
UNTAC balance							
-			Dec. 93	27 015			Remaining balance from UNTAC as at 31.12.95
Total					27 015		
Subtotals					1 953 903		
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS							
STACKS		640000 48455	Apr. 96	1 000	1 000		
LAW COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA		640000 48456	Apr. 96	322	322		
THE VICTORIAN BAR		640000 48457	Apr. 96	750	750		
Subtotals					2 072		
Grand totals					1 955 975	137 150	

(*) Pledges made to UNTAC in 1993.

Annex III

EXPENDITURES UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND FOR A HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION PROGRAMME IN CAMBODIA, 1 AUGUST 1995-31 JULY 1996

A. Assistance to the Cambodian Government

(United States dollars)

Activity	Expenditure a/
Training and information activities	54 040
Provincial network	39 460
Judicial Mentors Programme	248 226
Visit of Cambodian officials to the Commission on Human Rights	9 821
Assistance to the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Reporting Obligations	18 500
Total	370 047
Programme support costs (13 per cent)	48 106
Grand total	418 153

a/ Total of unliquidated obligations and disbursement.

B. Assistance to Cambodian non-governmental organizations: approved non-governmental organization projects (1995)

(United States dollars)

Project number	Organization	Subject	Amount
CHR/CAM/1995/1	Cambodian Institute of Human Rights	Human rights democracy contest on television	5 000
CHR/CAM/1995/2	Cambodian Committee for Human Rights Day	Celebration of Human Rights Day	2 000
CHR/CAM/1995/3	Non-governmental Organization Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child	Art competition on children's rights	500
CHR/CAM/1995/5	Preah Sihanouk Raj Academy	Research on ethnic groups in Cambodia	10 000
CHR/CAM/1995/6	Khmer Development for Freedom Organization	Celebration of Human Rights Day	270
CHR/CAM/1995/7	Khmer Buddhist Society (approved but not paid)	Human rights education for monks and communal leaders	20 000
CHR/CAM/1995/8	Women's Media Centre of Cambodia	Radio campaign on women's rights	4 754
CHR/CAM/1995/9	ADHOC	Strengthening of ADHOC's monitoring capacity in the provinces	5 000
CHR/CAM/1995/10	Khmer Youth Association	Education of prisoners in Prey Sar prison	1 910
CHR/CAM/1995/11	Cambodian Health and Human Rights Alliance	Training of medical staff in Kompong Speu and Kompong Chhnang prisons	5 000
CHR/CAM/1995/12	ADHOC	Assistance to victims of human rights violations	10 680
CHR/CAM/1995/13	ADHOC	Celebration of Human Rights Day	1 200
		TOTAL	66 251

CHR/CAM/1994/1	ICMC	Human rights education for women	6 300 (final instalment paid upon completion of the project)

Annex IV

STATUS OF CAMBODIA'S REPORTING OBLIGATIONS UNDER HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTIONS
RATIFIED OR ACCEDED TO BY CAMBODIA, AS AT 12 JUNE 1996

Convention	Establishment of Subcommittee on	Preparation of report started on/in	First draft report completed in	Report sent to the Inter-Ministerial Committee on	Review of report by the Inter-Ministerial Committee completed on	Translation into French completed in	Report sent to the Council of Ministers on	Total duration
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	6 July 1994 (but started to work only in October 1994 because of lack of funds and place)	October 1994	March 1995	23 March 1995	13 June 1995	28 August 1995	The report has not been sent yet for final approval.	
Duration		6 months		2 weeks	3 months	2 months		11 months and 2 weeks (running)
Convention on the Rights of the Child	6 July 1994 (but started to work only in October 1994 because of lack of funds and place)	October 1994	March 1995	16 August 1995	15 September 1995	16 December 1995	The report has not been sent yet for final approval.	
Duration		6 months		5 months	1 month	3 months		15 months (running)
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	1 May 1995	1 May 1995	End of October 1995	11 January 1996	31 January 1996	1 March 1996	The report has not been sent yet for final approval.	
Duration		6 months		2 months	3 weeks	1 month		9 months and 3 weeks (running)
Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	18 December 1995	January 1996						
Duration								Ongoing activity
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	18 December 1995	January 1996						
Duration								Ongoing activity
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Not established yet							